

Dear Hon. Michael Powell,

Please do not deregulate FCC rules (02-277) do not allow cross-ownership of broadcast news and newspapers. This would compromise the decision made by the Supreme Court in 1945 (Associated Press v. United States). Although this seems like a long time ago in terms of technology, the policy is still as sound as the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Further deregulation will undermine democratic principles, reduce diversity, competition, and localism. The stated benefits of media conglomerates do not add up to anything more than profits for the few and poor programming for the many.

Please take a step to keep corporate ideology out of the newsroom. With one CEO to manage all print and broadcast media, there will be no more checks and balances. It will be in the interest of CEO's to conceal stories that may impact their profit margins and their stockholders' dividends; however, we'll all be suffering from the loss of news that impacts our world.

Reporters are essential to gathering all sides of issues, providing diverse viewpoints from as many interviews with regular people as possible. With only a few reporters, with only a few interviews, we will lose those viewpoints and democracy will be compromised.

Please do not deregulate FCC rules - do not change policy to allow more mergers.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Juetten